



# California Department of Veterans Affairs

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

#### **SECRETARY TOM JOHNSON'S STATEMENT ON THE AGENCY'S 08/09 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Secretary Tom Johnson of the California Department of Veterans Affairs today released the following statement on the Agency's proposed 2008-2009 budget:

"California is faced with a severe budget crisis, and no agency can or should be exempt from bearing some of the burden. Because we recognize that veterans have already borne the burden of defending our freedoms, we are committed to ensuring that any impact of budget reductions will have the least amount of impact on the veterans that we serve. No matter the outcome of the budget, we will not let the services and care that we provide to the veterans who live in our state veterans homes be diminished or harmed. This administration has worked long and hard to ensure that our three veterans homes meet or surpass all state and federal standards of care and service, and this commitment will continue 100 percent."

"We remain on schedule for the construction and planning of the five new veterans homes in this state, so that we may better serve the veterans in California. As a matter of fact, in the Governor's proposed budget, our department will receive \$9.4 million to pay for the construction and activation of the three new homes in Southern California and another \$580,000 to pay for the initial construction and pre-activation phases of the Redding and Fresno veterans homes."

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Note to editors: This Veterans News and previous CDVA news releases, advisories, and newsletters are available on our website at [www.cdva.ca.gov](http://www.cdva.ca.gov) and via email from [Jaime.Arteaga@cdva.ca.gov](mailto:Jaime.Arteaga@cdva.ca.gov).